

# metro

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Thursday, January 14, 2016 metro.us | t: MetroNewYork | f: MetroNewYork



## DICAPRIO TO GAGA: SORRY!

The Golden Globes winners bury the hatchet. 14

Take a tropical break from winter. 19

Getting geeky with fantasy basketball. 22-23

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## TAKING ON 'EMPIRE'

Actor Clayton Prince Tanksley claims 'Empire' was lifted from a pilot that Tanksley pitched to director Lee Daniels in 2008. 10

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**IRAN FREES US SAILORS**

**1** Iran released 10 U.S. sailors on Wednesday after holding them overnight, bringing a swift end to an incident that had rattled nerves days ahead of the expected implementation of a landmark nuclear accord between Tehran and world powers. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said it had freed the sailors after determining they had entered Iranian territorial waters by mistake. **REUTERS**

**PAKISTAN BOMB ATTACK**

**2** A suicide bomber killed at least 15 people, most of them police, outside a polio eradication center in the Pakistani city of Quetta on Wednesday, the latest militant attack on the anti-polio campaign in the country. Two militant groups — the Pakistani Taliban and Jundullah, which has links with the Taliban and has pledged allegiance to Islamic State — separately claimed responsibility for the attack. The bomb blew up a police van that had just arrived at the center. **REUTERS**

**\$2B UBER INVESTMENT**

**3** Uber said it has received almost \$2 billion in funding from Chinese investors, some as part of a recent fund-raising round that valued the U.S. firm's Chinese unit at \$7 billion. Uber's main global entity received the rest of the money, though the company did not specify how much each unit got. **REUTERS**

**FREE FITNESS PROGRAMS**

**7** Parks Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver was joined by the first lady of NYC, Chirlane McCray at St. Mary's Recreation Center in the South Bronx to announce the largest expansion of free fitness classes in the history of the Shape Up NYC program. New York City now offers 370 weekly classes at 225 sites all.



MAIN PHOTO BY NYC PARKS, ALL OTHER PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

**FATAL TEEN SHOOTING**

**4** Three people are in custody and one teenager is dead after a shooting in broad daylight. The NYPD said that on Wednesday around 2:45 p.m., officers were dispatched to Livonia and Pennsylvania avenues whereupon they discovered two young men, 18 and 17 years of age, wounded by gunfire. The 18-year-old victim was pronounced dead at the hospital. **JOSH KRUGER**

**PROPOSED TAKEOVER**

**5** Elected officials in Atlantic City, New Jersey's distressed seaside gambling hub, denounced a proposed state takeover of the city's operations on Wednesday, saying similar moves to seize control of school districts in Camden and Newark have failed. **REUTERS**

**TRUCK-SURFING FATAL**

**6** A man was killed after he fell off his skateboard while truck-surfing alongside a Mack truck on the Lower East Side. Richard Oates, 32, of Brooklyn, was struck by the rear passenger-side wheels of a Mack truck that he had been hanging onto while on his skateboard, the NYPD said. **JASON NUCKOLS**



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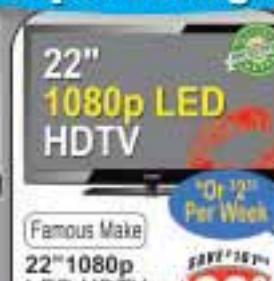
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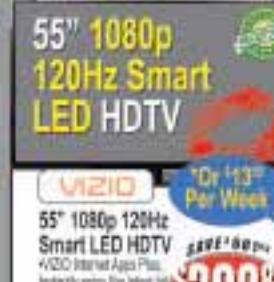
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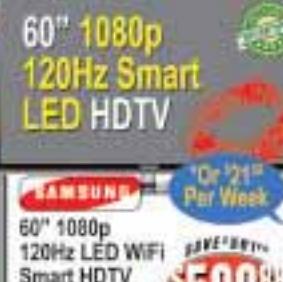
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## BRIEF

**Judge leaning toward sealing some evidence in Cosby suit**

A U.S. judge on Wednesday brokered a compromise on whether to release evidence in a defamation suit brought against comedian Bill Cosby by seven women who accuse him of sexually assaulting them.

Cosby's attorneys wanted to seal all evidence in the case for at least 14 days. This would likely include depositions by Cosby and his wife Camille on topics cover-

ing sexual matters.

U.S. Magistrate Judge David Hennessy rejected their bid. Instead, he said he was inclined to give each side up to seven days to make the case for whether individual pieces of testimony should be sealed.

Tamara Green sued Cosby in December 2014, accusing him of lying when he publicly denied having sexually assaulted her, and six other women have since joined in the lawsuit. Cosby, 78,

filed a countersuit in U.S. District Court in Massachusetts last month, accusing the women of defaming him.

The seven are among more than 50 women who have come forward to publicly accuse Cosby of sexually assaulting them after plying them with drugs or alcohol in alleged attacks carried out over a number of decades.

Hennessy said that once he had received a request for deposition evidence to be sealed, the

other side will have up to seven days to challenge.

Joseph Cammarata, an attorney for the women, acknowledged that depositions of witnesses including Cosby and his wife, Camille, would delve into personal matters.

"Are we going to talk about the sexual history? Of course. Are we going to talk about the extramarital activity? Yes," Cammarata said. "We already know these subject matters." **REUTERS**



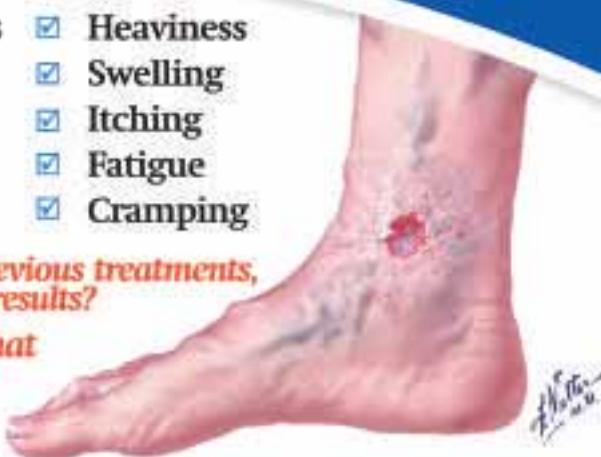
People walk past a mural of comedian Bill Cosby in Washington, D.C. **GETTY IMAGES**

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Bill Cosby is charged in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, with aggravated indecent assault, but some victim advocates think those terms don't do justice.



**SAM NEWHOUSE**  
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The downfall of Bill Cosby famously began in October 2014 after comedian Hannibal Buress ragged on Cosby during a stand-up show at the Trocadero in Philadelphia, repeatedly calling him a "rapist."

Except there's one problem with that statement: Cosby is not charged with rape. He is charged with indecent sexual assault.

In the days since Cosby was arraigned by Montgomery County prosecutors, most media have used the phrase "sexual assault" when referring to the charges against Cosby. While Cosby's alleged crime occurred in 2004, according to the FBI's 2012 re-definition of the crime, the acts alleged would be classified as rape.

The FBI now defines rape as "the penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object,

or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim."

Some said that the federal definition, which is not used for prosecution but for federal record-keeping, should be embraced as it treats any kind of sexual violation as rape, which has been historically considered one of the most abhorrent crimes.

"There is never 'just a sexual assault' to the person who experienced it," said Stephanie DeCandia, director of programs at the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center.

"We work with clients who define what happened to them as rape, yet in the criminal system the offender is charged with an indecent assault and battery because that is the charge the evidence in the case will allow," DeCandia said.

"That can be frustrating for survivors because they feel that what fully happened to them is being minimized or ignored."

The definition of rape is the subject of ongoing lively discussions, as anti-rape activists claim for example that U.S. colleges have an epidemic of rape, while some, including Harvard Law School professors, have questioned the legality of college proceedings on rape.

"We're moving toward understanding sexual of

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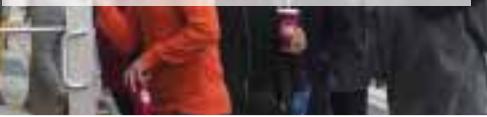
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# Is Cosby a 'rapist'? It's more complex than you think



fenses as being deeply tied up with sexual autonomy, and charges shouldn't require force — non-consent should be enough," said Villanova University Law Professor Michelle Madden Dempsey. "That's all the more true because there are so many cases like the Cosby case where someone is incapacitated, or when someone is experiencing what psychologists call being 'frozen in fear.'"

In Pennsylvania law, rape would only apply if the incident involved sexual intercourse.

That definition is problematic for a number of reasons, Dempsey said — including that it's difficult to secure a rape conviction.

"Since the 1970s, various jurisdictions have modernized their sexual offenses in a number of ways. Many states decided to drop the label rape and make the most egregious crime 'sexual assault,'" she said. "The really old-fashioned definition of rape ... required physical resistance by the victim, both use of force and non-consent. It was quite a difficult definition to satisfy from the prosecutor's perspective."

In a famous 1994 Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision, a man had his rape conviction overturned because the act did not include the

use of force, Dempsey pointed out.

"In response, the Pennsylvania legislature ... came up with sexual assault for an offense that involves penetration without consent," Dempsey said. "We count things like touching as criminal assault and battery if they're done without consent. If they're sexual in nature, if they involve penis going into someone's vagina or anus or what have you, it seems logical we should count that kind of conduct as sexual assault as well."

DeCandia also said legal realities often limit what a person is charged with.

"The legal definitions and statutory titles are very fact-specific and charges brought are most often dependent on the facts that the prosecution believe can be proven to meet the legal definitions," she said. "This is why it's helpful for everyone to not view the criminal justice system as the be-all and end-all for defining what is sexual violence and whether or not it happened, and that it is not the only recourse for justice or healing."

"The understanding of those words covers roughly the behavior he has allegedly done," she said. "It's not a legal misrepresentation. But he is only accused."

## BRIEFS

### Upcoming 'Homeland' season to be set, shot in New York City

The upcoming sixth season of Showtime's "Homeland" will mostly take place and be produced in New York.

Showtime Networks CEO David Nevins has said that the storyline of the sixth season will be set domestically and will primarily be shot "in and around New York City," TV Line



Claire Danes on set GC IMAGES

reported.

Because the details on the upcoming season are being

kept secret, Nevins told the New York Daily News, "We don't know much more than

that, but I can confirm that."

Regarding the show's longevity, Showtime's entertainment president, Gary Levine, said that no end is in sight, and creator Alex Gansa "sees many seasons to come," Levine said to ABC.

The show's lead actress, Claire Danes, lives in Manhattan with her husband and their son, the Daily News added. METRO

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Sen. Charles Schumer is asking the feds to chip in to alleviate overcrowding on the constantly crowded L train.

The \$300 million project would allow for an additional 2,200 passengers per hour and would include physical upgrades like new staircases, entrances and wheelchair-accessible elevators at several stations.

"This critical project would increase capacity and reduce overcrowding on the L Train. ... The L Train travels through a number of heavily populated Brooklyn neighborhoods, like Starrett City, Canarsie, East New York, Brownsville, Bushwick and Williamsburg, and has grown increasingly overcrowded in recent years," Schumer wrote in a letter to the Federal Transportation Administration on Tuesday.

An estimated 300,000

customers travel on the L each weekday, an almost 100 percent increase since 1998.

"In the morning it is often difficult when I am taking my son to school because we have to let trains go by to get on because it is so crowded," said Whitney Van Nes, 43, at the Morgan Avenue station.

But all the improvements may be meaningless as the MTA hatches plans to cut off L service between Manhattan and Brooklyn to weather-harden the Canarsie Tunnel, which was flooded with saltwater during Hurricane Sandy, Gothamist reported.

Work is scheduled to begin in 2017, according to the website and was set to cost more than \$50 million and last 40 months.

Manhattan-bound trains would terminate at Bedford Avenue and a



Schumer GETTY IMAGES

combination of shuttle buses and increased service on the M and G lines would be utilized to get commuters into Manhattan, Gothamist reported. The FTA and the MTA declined to comment.

MARIAH BROWN

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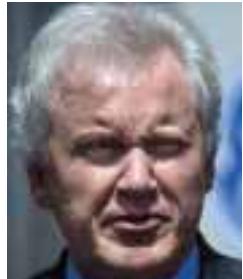
# GE headquarters moving to Boston

General Electric hopes to tap into Hub tech talent.

General Electric Co. said on Wednesday it will move its global headquarters to Boston, tapping the city's technology talent as the industrial conglomerate seeks to emphasize its digital capabilities.

The maker of aircraft engines, locomotives, power turbines and household appliances will move to temporary quarters by next summer, and permanently settle about 800 workers in the Seaport district by 2018, GE said.

"We want to be at the center of an ecosystem that shares our aspirations" as a leader in digital-industrial activities, GE Chief Executive Jeffrey Immelt said in a statement.



Chairman of the Board and CEO of the General Electric Jeffrey R. Immelt  
GETTY IMAGES

namic and creative city."

GE said the move would have no material financial impact, with costs offset by state and city incentives and the sale of its current headquarters offices in Fairfield, Connecticut, and its offices at 30 Rockefeller Plaza in New York City.

Massachusetts will provide up to \$120 million in grants and other incentives and the city will provide property tax savings of up to \$25 million. The state funds must be spent on public infrastructure, including site preparation, building acquisition costs and road and building improvements, GE said.

GE also is eligible for \$1 million in workforce training grants, and up to \$5 million to foster relations between the company, research institutions and universities. REUTERS

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# 'Empire' creators accused of plagiarism

Philly native Clayton Prince Tanksley has filed a lawsuit arguing that creators of the smash hit "Empire" stole his ideas.

**SAM NEWHOUSE**  
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A Philly entertainer claimed in a federal lawsuit that the creators of the smash hit TV show "Empire" stole the idea for the show from him.

Clayton Prince Tanksley claimed that "Empire," created by director Lee Daniels, was lifted from a pilot for a show called "Cream" that Tanksley pitched to Daniels in 2008 after an event in Philly.

"Prince spoke privately

with ... Daniels and pitched 'Cream' to him," stated the lawsuit, filed in Philly federal court on Jan. 8. "Daniels ... affirmatively represented to Prince that he was very interested in the property and might well be disposed to proceed further with its development as a television soap opera series."

Tanksley, 50, an actor who played roles in "The Cosby Show" and TV series "Dark Justice," claimed in court papers that in January 2015 he was startled to see the premiere of "Empire," which he believed is a rip-off of his "Cream" concept.

"The television series 'Empire' is so substantially similar to 'Cream,' that ... the physical appearance of the characters, plots and scenes,



Lee Daniels GETTY IMAGES

delphia and have risen beyond their criminal pasts to establish record label businesses in that city," the suit states as evidence of plagiarism.

A scene-by-scene comparison included in the lawsuit highlights numerous other similarities between the two shows.

Tanksley also said that "Empire" killed any interest in "Cream," which he first created in 2005.

"Once 'Empire' began airing, none of the television networks was interested in 'Cream' due to its striking similarities to 'Empire,' which demonstrates that several objective observers immediately recognized the obvious and substantial similarities between the two shows," the lawsuit alleged.

The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages.

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## National Guard helps distribute supplies in Flint water crisis

Michigan National Guard members were set to arrive in Flint as soon as Wednesday to join door-to-door efforts to distribute bottled water and other supplies to residents coping with the city's crisis over lead-contaminated drinking water.

Gov. Rick Snyder activated the state's National Guard on Tuesday and requested support from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which approved the request and appointed a disaster recovery coordinator to help the state, Snyder and a FEMA spokesman said on Twitter.

The financially strapped city was under the control of a state-appointed emergency manager when it switched its source of tap water to the nearby Flint River in April 2014 from Detroit's water system to save money.

Flint, about 60 miles northwest of Detroit, re-



Michigan National Guard Staff Sgt. William Phillips of Birch Run, Michigan, helps Flint resident Amanda Roark and her son Dash take bottled water out to her vehicle after she received it at a fire station in Flint, Michigan. GETTY IMAGES

turned to using Detroit water in October after tests found some children had elevated levels of lead in their blood and lead was found in higher-than-acceptable levels in the water.

In December the city said lead levels were still "well above" the acceptable federal level in many homes.

Snyder has apologized for the state's mishandling of the situation. In late December, he accepted the resignation of the state official whose

agency, the Department of Environmental Quality, oversees water quality.

Last week, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Detroit said it was investigating the lead contamination of Flint's water and Snyder declared a state of emergency in Genesee County, which includes Flint, authorizing additional state resources to address health and safety issues.

Flint residents have filed a federal lawsuit accusing the city and state of endangering their health. REUTERS

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## DiCaprio manned up and apologized for the Gaga shade

The most inflammatory part of this Sunday's Golden Globes wasn't host Ricky Gervais' decidedly noninflammatory jokes. It was a blink-and-miss it moment when Lady Gaga strolled up to the podium to receive an acting award. (To paraphrase "The Simpsons," I know what those words mean but that sentence makes no sense.) As you well know, she bumped into Leonardo DiCaprio's chair and he cast her some serious shade. According to Radar Online, Gaga's fiance, actor Taylor Kinney, found out about it. At an after party he confronted the possible future Oscar-winning thespian, in a way that has been described as "nonconfrontational," about making an apology. Whatever he said, it worked, and DiCaprio apologized and even partied down with the two. But surely saying sorry to Gaga can't be as painful as bopping around snow and icy waters for months and canoodling with a CGI bear, as he did on the set of "The Revenant." Has DiCaprio told anyone that movie was difficult to make? **MP**



ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

# the word

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Ugh, the Razzies. No fruit is too low-hanging for the awards body that's essentially the anti-Oscars, who every year celebrate the year's worst in cinematic product — or just make super-obvious jokes that your least funny friend already made. For their 2015 edition, they naturally, inevitably, lamely stuck it to "Fifty Shades of Grey," "Jupiter Ascending" and "Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2." Nevermind that "Fifty Shades" has some merit, not

## The Razzies dogpiled on 'Fifty Shades' and 'Jupiter' because they suck



the least of them Dakota Johnson's quietly funny turn. So, of course, she was nominated, as was Eddie Redmayne for "Jupiter," despite him being super-duper-mega-ultra over-the-top and entertaining. But let's say some nice things about them for a change. At least they didn't dogpile on "Aloha," Cameron Crowe's roundly derided but actually, secretly

semi-good rom-com. And they did nominate Adam Sandler for not just "Pixels" but the truly, inventively abysmal indie "The Cobbler." On the other hand, did Amanda Seyfried run over a Razzie member's dog? She's in 20 seconds of "Pan" and is fine in "Love the Coopers," and yet she's been nominated for both. Ye gods, nevermind: The Razzies suck. **MP**

## DAILY VIDEO



YOUTUBE

### Oregon militia dildos not into receiving dildos

The silver lining of the anti-gub'mint militants who've occupied a federal bird sanctuary in Oregon is that people, by and large, have taken them about as seriously as one would a group of people who've taken over a bird sanctuary. To add insult to injury, when they asked for care

packages, they activated the nation's chuckleheads, who've bombarded them with joke correspondences. Inevitably some of those were packed with dildos. Well, they're not taking this lying down, as it were. One member countered the jesters by recording a video showing an untold number of said dildos, which he then angrily swept off a table. Memo to the militiamen from the comedy gods: Never leave. **MP**



## One Direction is splitting up

The four One Direction members — Louis Tomlinson, Niall Horan, Liam Payne and Harry Styles — have decided not to renew their recording contract and instead to go in separate directions, US Weekly has reported. After Zayn Malik's departure from the group in March 2015, the band went on tour and decided not to continue as a group after the tour finished, Fox stated in a related article. They had originally announced that an extended hiatus would begin in March, US Weekly added, also stating that the group will release one more video for a song from their "Made in the A.M." album. "The 1D thing just ran its course. They'll remain friends, but they are exhausted and want solo careers," a source told US Weekly. **JASON NUCKOLS**

## Olivia Munn says Aaron Rodgers is totally not her fiance



missed out on an important moment in her daughter's life. "You know you

shouldn't believe what you read on the internet," replies

Munn. "If I was engaged, I promise you'd be like 8th person to know. Maybe 9th. But definitely way before the internet." **RR**



@RedHourBen

It's troubling how much happier I am when the Knicks are winning.



@HaileeSteinfeld

I just found out there's no such thing as a real world



@SarahKSilverman

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# The Knocks: Adding substance to sound

The electronic duo proves that good dance music can be a little sad.



EMILY LAURENCE  
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emily.laurence@metro.us

The Knocks' Ben "B-Roc" Ruttner wouldn't advise most people to go into business with their roommate, but it's worked out pretty great for him. "James and I are really lucky," he says. "I always thought since our relationship was so easy that all other music groups were like that. But after being on the road with some other bands, I found out that is definitely not the case."

New York transplants Ruttner and his buddy James "JPatt" Patterson formed the electronic music duo back in 2010 while living in their East Village apartment where they survived on "dollar slices of pizza and had people living on our couch to pay the rent."



Ben Ruttner and James Patterson of The Knocks. TATIANA TURIN

In 2010, they made it big with their single, "Make It Better," which was featured on a Corona commercial. They have since worked with heavyweights including XX Ambassadors, Fetty

Wap, Walk the Moon and Cam'ron. The duo is currently executive producing Wyclef Jean's upcoming album, and their own, long-awaited debut will be released March 4. We caught up

with Ruttner to get the full scoop.

## No drama

Ruttner and Patterson's easy-going friendship spills into the way they

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collaborate with other artists. They really do seem like the type of dudes who avoid drama and are friends with everyone. Not only do they have a track ("All That") with Carly Rae Jepsen, they remained friends with her while working on a song with her ex-boyfriend Matthew Koma. "We actually worked with two of Matt Koma's exes," Ruttner laughs. "His other ex-girlfriend is Crista [Ru] from POWERS."

Ruttner says that particular song, "Classic," was actually the song that set the tone for their entire upcoming album. "We had a whole album

ready and done, but then 'Classic' set a new bar for us. Everything just clicked." The song has a throwback, disco-pop sound juxtaposed with the beat-heavy club trend that was happening in the EDM space, and the risk worked out in their favor.

## Beyond the beat

Most electronic dance music sounds like happiness on steroids, but The Knocks' songs have a bit of melancholy and nostalgia to them. "With dance music, for a while it was about who could have the craziest sounds or the wildest drop, but Disclosure and other [artists] like that are letting the world know you can have a really good dance song that has really good lyrics and content," Ruttner says. "We aren't just making songs people can just jump up and down to. Actual good songwriting is important."

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# Daughter's Elena Tonra sheds light on her darkness

The alt-folk trio's new album drops Friday.

CHRIS CAESAR  
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letters@metro.us

You think you don't know Daughter, but you've probably already heard them.

The ambient alt-folk trio has provided the broodingly bleak soundtrack for many a TV drama ("Grey's Anatomy," "Skins," "The Originals") and will drop their sophomore album, "Not to Disappear," from 4AD/Glassnote Records on Friday. The London-based group will then embark on a North American tour to support the release this spring.

We caught up with 26-year-old lead singer Elena Tonra during a break from rehearsals with her bandmates Igor Haefeli and Remi Aguilera.

**How does the art on the cover of "Not to**



Daughter's haunting sophomore release debuts Friday. GLASSNOTE RECORDS

## "Disappear" tie into the theme of the album?

It's a painting by Sarah Shaw, an artist from Brighton [England]. It was just so peaceful and really fit with how the album sounds.

## What drives the themes in your music? There's bleakness, but some underlying hope, too.

I hopefully think there always is, in everything that we make — that we're hopeful — that

there is peace in it, as well as being kind of sad. To have the music take it up there [to hopefulness] is a credit to the guys more than me.

## The subject of

"Numbers" refers to their loneliness as a "kingdom." Do you feel like there is a redeeming quality to loneliness?

I find it quite inspiring sometimes. Whenever I am in that mind frame, I find it makes me write, probably because I'm not very inspired to write when I'm feeling OK. There is something about loneliness that inspired me to write a lot of songs on the album.

## Was there a loss that inspired this album?

There's a song about my grandmother, which I had never written about before. I think that kind of came out of nowhere. My brain had wanted to talk about it for a while, and I hadn't really. Just the loss of memory and of self — she's still alive, but it's a loss of her soul. I mean, she's still there, but it's hard when you see someone your whole life, and maybe they don't know exactly who you are anymore.

**Do you feel like we're seeing a broader shift toward more vulnerability in music, and in culture more generally?**

I haven't really noticed it too much. There have been a lot of times where I'd second guess [what] I'm writing, and then I just say, "Well, write what you want to write." I think honesty is the best policy. I don't know if it's a trend; I think I've always just loved records that feel really honest, like they're not filtered or overthought.

We haven't really been listening to records a lot when making an album. We tend to go on a dry spell and shut ourselves away. But I absolutely loved "Carrie & Lowell" [by Sufjan Stevens]. That, to me, was such an honest record, and it was just so beautiful, one of the most beautiful things I've heard for a long time.

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# Rob Schneider's doing it for himself

The comedic actor talks voicing polar bears and defends Steven Seagal.



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In his early stand-up days, before his stint on "Saturday Night Live," Rob Schneider was known for the diversity of his voices. Sometimes he still gets to use that skill. No stranger to animation, Schneider voices the lead in "Norm of the North" — a polar bear trying to save the Arctic from greedy human developers. This family film comes soon after the debut of "Real Rob," his fairly foul-mouthed Netflix show about a fictionalized version of himself and his family.

**You have a 3-year-old daughter. Does that inform some of the work you take?**

I'd like to be able to sit with her and watch one of my movies. There's a couple animated films



Rob Schneider voices a polar bear trying to save the Arctic in "Norm of the North." LIONSGATE

I did — I call it "emergency trauma surgery animation." That's where they bring you in, and it's already animated, and you have to squeeze jokes in. Or it's in another language. A friend brought me into some films because he knows I can do a lot of voices. So I would do nine different

voices for a movie called "The Reef," which was a blatant ripoff of "Finding Nemo." You make it as good as you can, but it's not like this movie, where you start from scratch and really build something. I showed my daughter "The Reef 2" and after 10 minutes, she got up and walked out. [Laughs]

ing and funny and kind of my version of "Fawlty Towers." Because where else is entertainment going to go? It has to be more personal. Reality TV is a bore. And it's not real; they sketch it out. So you take an exaggerated version of yourself, and the audiences guess how much is real and how much isn't.

**You also have "Real Rob," which, like your CBS show "Rob," follows around a version of you. What made you want to return to a fictionalized version of yourself?**

I wanted to do something that was entertain-

**Token 'Saturday Night Live' question**

**You were there during Steven Seagal's episode. Some have nominated him as the worst-ever host.**

I find that to be an exaggeration. I worked with him. He's a bit of a loon — just a little bit. I didn't think he was the worst. I thought there were other ones who were worse than him, to be honest. I don't remember seeing David Spade in the writers room for an extended time, the whole time I was there. He would

do his stuff. I was in the writers room. I think people are looking for a safe target. That's mean-spirited, and I don't think David Spade had direct dealings with Steven Seagal. I'm going to call him out on that and say bulls—, David, you didn't have direct experience with him; you weren't around.



we were going to wind up somewhere, because it's good. We wanted to make something that was the highest quality possible. No one could have done what I did. I'm the only actor, only comedian ever who's produced, written, edited, financed an entire season. I edited it for nine months. Nobody could do that. I don't know if anyone would want to do that. With companies like Netflix, the door is open to produce your own stuff. I hope other people follow my lead, because you get complete artistic freedom. That's what you want as an artist.

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This family-run operation — mom Alejandra Aco does the cooking while brother-sister duo share front-of-house duties — just grew into a full-on restaurant. The Puebla cuisine (a melding of old Spanish and French techniques with Mexican ingredients) includes a loaded version of a fried chicken sandwich with Oaxaca cheese (and ham!), marinated chipotle and onions on sesame seed bread. Weekend brunch is a breezy \$20 and includes an hour of bottomless mimosas or sangria.

## Solomon & Kuff

### 3231 12th Ave., West Harlem

With winter bearing down, there's an easy escape to the islands at this sprawling new Caribbean gastropub, which has collected over 100 rums behind the bar. Though it's a cozy spot for starting your evening, swing by when it's still daylight out for sweeping views of the Hudson River while you nosh on West Indies-style bites like cauliflower and saltfish fritters, sandwiches on Jamaican starchy-sweet coco bread and a house burger topped with a scotch bonnet papaya aioli, if you think you can handle it.

## Pearl's

### 178 N. Eighth St., Williamsburg

John Seymour has a way with chicken & waffles at Sweet Chick, but it's his wife, Fallon, cooking the Trinidadian food she grew up on at their new fast-casual spot. The menu draws from her grandmother's kitchen and the street foods of San Fernando, with dishes that tend toward the rich and spicy side, like sweet plantains with tamarind chili sauce, and sandwiches served on a fried bread called bake. Rein in the heat with a Frozen Ginger Dark & Stormy or rum punch.

## Playa Betty's

### 320 Amsterdam Ave., UWS

The team behind Reunion Surf Bar thought the Upper West Side could use a little chill, too. This new spot is also styled after a surf shack, including the owners' personal boards and turns out "California-style beach food" from tacos, which can be grabbed from a quick-service area, to healthful trends ("dharma bowls" of grains, greens and proteins including Veracruz snapper). Grab a seat for DIY guacamole, Frozen Palomas and the beach bum budget-friendly whole roasted chicken with grilled corn and salsas for \$20.

# Sunny plates

These new spots serving the food and drinks of warmer climates arrived just in time to take the edge off winter.

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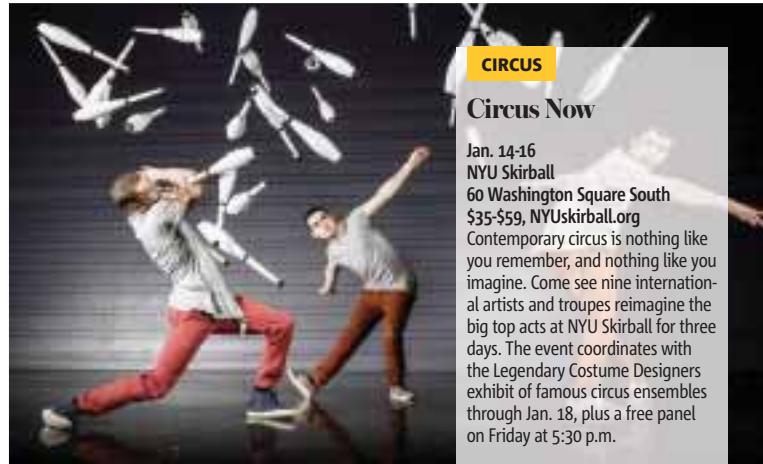
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Webster Hall, 125 E. 11th St.  
\$50-\$60, [Websterhall.com](#)  
Drink like it's the last legal drink you may have and dance like you're chasing away the Great Depression at East Ville des Folies, a Prohibition-themed festival with beer and whiskey tastings spanning four floors at the historic Webster Hall. There's also live music and dance performances, and while 1920s-era attire is optional, being 21 is not.

## COMEDY

**A Journey Thru  
Black History**

Jan. 18, 8 p.m.  
Upright Citizens Brigade  
307 W. 26th St.  
\$5, [UCBtheatre.com](#)  
Celebrate Martin Luther King Day with a quick brush-up on black history milestones with Reverend Professor Ray Cordova and the Astronomy Club. Learn the answers to burning questions



## CIRCUS

**Circus Now**

Jan. 14-16  
NYU Skirball  
60 Washington Square South  
\$35-\$59, [NYUskirball.org](#)  
Contemporary circus is nothing like you remember, and nothing like you imagine. Come see nine international artists and troupes reimagine the big top acts NYU Skirball for three days. The event coordinates with the Legendary Costume Designers exhibit of famous circus ensembles through Jan. 18, plus a free panel on Friday at 5:30 p.m.

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like "Who wore it best along the Underground Railroad?" and "Really, that racist nonsense is still happening?"

## FOOD

**Restaurant Week**

Jan. 18-Feb. 5  
Multiple locations  
\$25-\$38, [NYCgo.com](#)  
Beginning Monday get to over 370 restaurants, many of which you can't ordinarily afford, for three-course lunches for \$25 or dinners for \$38. However, you do need to reserve a spot.

## ARTS

**Housing a  
Growing City**

Jan. 19, 6:30 p.m.  
Museum of the City of New York  
1220 Fifth Ave.  
\$16, [MCNY.org](#)  
If you're wondering how you'll continue to live in NYC with rent skyrocketing, you're not alone. City planners are gathering to brainstorm these issues, and you can hear what they're coming up with at this talk, then check out the current exhibit, "Affordable New York: A Housing Legacy."

**Broadway Week**

Jan. 19-Feb. 5  
Multiple locations  
Prices vary, [NYCgo.com](#)  
How about pairing your Restaurant Week dinner with a Broadway Week show? You could have the best date night for less than half the usual price, because tickets to some of the hottest plays are two-for-one during this deal. While no, sorry, "Hamilton" is not included, new musicals like "Allegiance" (with George Takei) and the revival of "Misery" starring Bruce Willis are, and tickets do sell out. T. MICHELLE MURPHY

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# How to save money on your next trip

Travel expert Mark Murphy tells us when and where to book our beach vacation.



**RACHEL VIGODA**  
**@rachelvigoda**  
**rachel.vigoda@metro.us**

With saving money on travel, when you go is as important as where you go. We checked in with Mark Murphy, founder of TravelPulse.com, to find out the best destinations for warm weather getaways that won't break the bank, and the best times to book them.

## When to go

"The key if you're looking for great value is finding the gaps," Murphy says. "Between Thanksgiving and Christmas is one of the best times to travel because it's cheap. The resorts empty out, and they don't fill back up

A scenic view of a beach in Mexico. The foreground is filled with numerous thatched umbrellas, some with small tables and chairs underneath. The beach is a light tan color. In the background, the ocean is a vibrant blue, meeting a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The overall atmosphere is tropical and relaxing.

Is Mexico calling to you? Cancun is a great value right now, Murphy says. **RACHEL VIGODA**

until the Christmas holiday. Right now is another great time to travel — you could have booked something for now for half the price as what you would have paid two weeks ago to travel over the holidays."

But that won't hold true for long. The next few months are busy for destinations like Mexico, Florida and the Caribbean, Murphy says. And then there's a dropoff again: "Any warm weather destination will see a dramatic

drop in pricing right after the Easter break, and especially in May — that tends to be a really soft month, so it's a great time to get away and have the same exact experience as someone who paid twice as much to go

another time," he says.

## Not just for spring breakers

If you're looking for a beach destination easily accessible from the East Coast via nonstop flight, Cancun is one of the best values, Murphy says.

And if you go with an all-inclusive resort, you'll know all your costs up front.

"People perceive the all-inclusive market as the way it was 10, 20 years ago, with buffet lines and things like that, but it's really evolved and gone into the luxury space," he says. "One example at the high end is the five-star, all-inclusive resort Grand Velas in the Riviera Maya region — I sent people there who are big-time foodies, and they could not say enough good things about it. One restaurant there, they said it was on par with the best restaurants in New York. At an all-inclusive!"

Murphy also suggests the luxe Le Blanc, an all-inclusive adults-only property with butler service, or the Hyatt Ziva if you're bringing the whole family, but there are "tons of choices" in the three and four-star range in Cancun as well.

## Cruise from home

Long gone are the days of having to fly to Miami to board a ship.

"Whether you're in Boston, New York or Philadelphia, you're within a three-hour drive of a dozen cruise ships. It's called home-port cruising," Murphy says. "That's a massive savings if you're traveling as a family — you're going to save on average about \$2,000 in airfare versus flying somewhere to get to a ship or get to a resort."

As far as when to go, the same money-saving rules apply to cruises: Find the gap.

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The advertisement features a top section showing a cabin crew member in a pink patterned uniform assisting a passenger in a white shirt and tie. The passenger is seated in a Business Class seat, looking at a magazine. To the right, a circular seal for '5 STAR AIRLINE SKYTRAX' is displayed. The bottom section is a large, scenic photograph of the Singapore skyline, including the Merlion statue and the Marina Bay Sands, with a white airplane flying in the sky above the city.

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Kobe Bryant and Kyrie Irving are two interesting specimens from an analytical perspective. GETTY IMAGES

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Adam Levitan is a Fantasy Sports columnist for Metro US. He is also a DraftKings analyst and co-host of The Daily Fantasy Football Edge podcast. [@AdamLevitian](http://www.adamlevitan.com)



Mom's basement is getting crowded these days.

Everyone wants to get in on the buzz word of our generation: "analyt-

### NBA pickups of the week

1. Mirza Teletovic, PF, Suns – With Alex Len hurt and Markieff Morris in the doghouse, Teletovic is getting consistent run at multiple positions.
2. Terrence Jones, PF, Rockets – Houston may soon realize Jones is a better option than Clint Capela and adjust accordingly. Motiejunas (back) isn't coming back anytime soon.
3. D'Angelo Russell, PG, Lakers – Despite coming off the bench, Russell is getting 23-28 minutes nightly. Even if that never grows, he's worth owning.

ics." To many executives in sports and a lot of people who walked 4 miles through snow to get to school, the mere word analytics makes them shiver in fear. To some fantasy players, it's overwhelming. There is no reason for these feelings.

Using advanced stats to measure a player's impact is relatively simple. For our purposes with fantasy basketball, usage rate is the most actionable metric. The exact formula

for it involves field-goal attempts, free-throw attempts, turnovers, assists, pace and minutes. But the bottom line is that it tells us how involved a player is on offense. The more usage, the more chance to post stats.

With that in mind, here are players who have room to grow based on their usage rate.

### Urging on Irving

Kyrie Irving sat out the



## HOW TO UTILIZE LEVEL STAT

first 1½ months of the season as he recovered from a fractured kneecap. His return has predictably been a bit rocky, highlighted by a dreadful outing Sunday in a dream matchup against the Sixers. But Irving is a great bet to string together some massive games once he gets going. Even though he's been limited by the injury, Irving's 30.5 usage rate is seventh in the NBA. That's way up from last year, when he was 29th at 25.5. The Cavs need him heavily involved to solidify their "Big Three."

### Totals for Mudiay

Emmanuel Mudiay is not a good NBA point guard right now. He's shooting an intolerable 31.2 percent from the field, 68.2 percent from the line and turning it over 4.0 times per game. But his top-20

usage rate of 27.3 shows us he's a huge part of the Nuggets' rebuild. In DFS leagues and season-long formats that are not impacted by efficiency, the 19-year-old Mudiay will bring back some value in the right matchups.

### Kobe steak well done

The Kobe Bryant situation is a bit of a running joke. The Lakers have forsaken the progress of young players so he can do a Farewell Tour and jack up 17.3 shots a night. Kobe sits out

home games and plays on the road so fans can have the "pleasure" of seeing him one more time. All that said, when Bryant does suit up he's going to put up numbers via a top-10 usage rate of 29.8. In games he actually shoots over 45 percent, it'll be ham.

### NBA news

Anthony Davis is quickly earning a Mr. Glass reputation. He's already missed five games this season, left early in whole bunch of others and gone to the locker room a fistful of times only to return. Davis is also shooting under 50 percent for the first time in his career. There are likely some owners that are sick of The Brow and willing to sell at a discount. It's a risk as Davis' body appears injury-prone, but it's one we should take thanks to the high ceiling.



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## metro.us/horoscopes



**Aries** Enjoy the company of an agreeable someone. Physical exertion or an update to your image will make you feel good.



**Taurus** Listen to the advice offered, but make up your own mind. You will have the insight and knowledge to make the best choice.



**Gemini** Be cautious how you divide your time. Don't be too willing to give your all to someone else's cause or concern.



**Cancer** Don't fear doing things differently. A change will do you good and spark new ideas that can help you make personal and professional gains.



**Leo** You'll mesmerize those you encounter with your lively attitude and innovative ideas. Good fortune will come through the connections you make.



**Virgo** Explore new places in order to discover interesting opportunities, but first take care of your responsibilities at home before someone complains.



**Libra** Getting together with people who understand you and can help you see a personal situation clearly will help to ease your mind.



**Scorpio** Don't be too trusting of someone showering you with compliments. Ulterior motives lie behind kind gestures. Focus inward.



**Sagittarius** Problems will develop if you travel or get into an emotional scuffle with someone equally as passionate about winning as you are.



**Capricorn** Money matters must be taken seriously. Don't let anyone stand in your way or prevent you from getting done what needs to get done.



**Aquarius** Don't take chances. Protect against injury, and avoid getting into an argument with someone who doesn't see things the same way you do.



**Pisces** Partnership problems will escalate if you overreact to what's going on around you. Retreat and find out exactly what's going on. **EUGENIA LAST**

## metro.us/sudoku

easy

2		4				5		
	7				9			
3		9	8	2				6
5	8		2		7			
		1		8		7		
			4		1		6	8
4				7	8	6		3
			1				9	
	7				2			1

## Across

1 Bunk preference  
6 Maine, from Utah  
10 Cozy  
14 Tara's Scarlett  
15 Run words together  
16 Comics pooch  
17 George Burns prop  
18 El —, Texas  
19 Soothe  
20 Throw a party  
22 Got the deck ready  
24 Offer  
26 Coves  
27 Of years past (hyph.)  
31 El — Campeador  
32 Enamel  
33 Tact, to a diplomat  
36 Cold War org.  
39 Checkbook no.  
40 Melanges  
41 Island near Kauai  
42 Jamie — Curtis  
43 Enthusiasm  
44 Bunnylike  
45 Apply makeup  
46 Undertook  
48 Frothy dessert  
51 NFL gains  
52 On parade  
54 Hidebound  
59 Baroness Karen  
60 Dreyfus defender  
62 Posh hotel lobbies  
63 Glut  
64 Used thriftily  
65 Rhubarb unit  
66 Row  
67 Ten, in Toledo  
68 Caterwauls

## Down

1 — Lomond  
2 Columbus' home  
3 Quipsters

4 Was, to Ovid  
5 Cheese dish  
6 Sixth sense  
7 Woe is me!  
8 Raw fish dish  
9 Drubs  
10 Gobbled down  
11 Man or woman  
12 Rubs the wrong way  
13 Canasta play  
21 Murky  
23 Emulate a hummingbird  
25 Mergers and buyouts  
27 Fiery gem  
28 Add some brandy  
29 Mince  
30 Explosive letters  
34 Roost  
35 Like a chimney  
36 Marx or Malden  
37 Clarified butter  
38 Melville's "Billy —"  
40 Bigger than normal  
41 Wood for floors  
43 Nasty cut  
44 Sheer joy  
45 Prepare to kiss

47 Website clutter  
48 African tribe  
49 Spout rhetoric  
50 Japanese mushroom  
52 Refresh the fern  
53 Merriment  
55 Conductor — Klemperer  
56 Oater challenge  
57 Respiratory organ  
58 Tibetan oxen  
61 Carpentry tool

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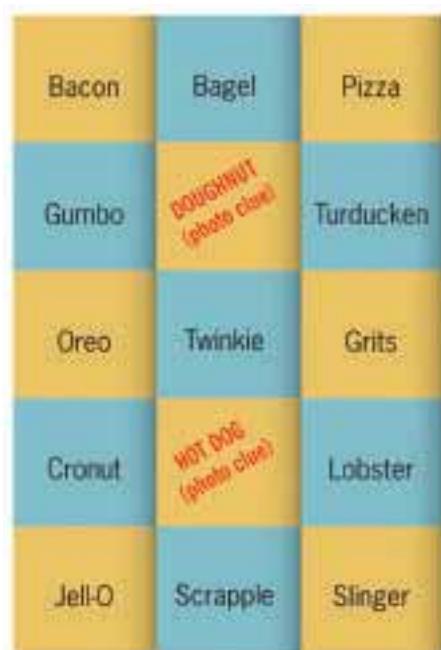


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### ANAGRAM SQUARE

Rearrange the letters in each row to form a word. Write your answers into the blank grid. The first letter from each word, reading down, will spell the mystery word.

## QUIZ QUEST



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All the answers to the clues are in the boxes, either as a word or picture. Solve all the clues and cross off the boxes. One word will be left over. This is the mystery answer.

### Clues:

- Dish of pork scraps, flour, and spices, eaten by the Pennsylvania Dutch
- The NFL's John Madden often expressed his liking for this dish on-air
- Its name possibly came from a Greek word meaning 'beautiful' or 'well done'
- It may be Sicilian, Quad City-style, or New Haven-style
- Midwestern specialty of eggs, hash browns, and hamburger meat
- It may be served in Newburg or Thermidor style
- Official prepared food of the state of Georgia
- LeRoy, New York, has a museum dedicated to what?
- The first Friday of June is a day to celebrate this snack
- Salty snack that's a recurring element of YouTube's Epic Meal Time
- Food associated with the Wienermobile
- It typically comes in two varieties: Creole and Cajun
- It's also a tennis term for a 6-0 win in a set
- An urban myth purports that this snack has an infinite shelf life



#### President Obama delivers his final State of the Union

In a sweeping recommitment of anti-extreme-christianity, He clearly charges moral. President Barack Obama avoided a flurry of passing proposals in favor of big ideas at his final State of the Union speech.



#### Alabama chief justice: No gay marriage in my state

Judge who follows his order not being held in contempt of court for violating the federal ruling.



#### Texas 'affluenza' teen taken into custody in Mexico

Ethan Couch became known as the 'affluenza' teen during his trial in juvenile court, when a psychologist said he was so wealthy and spoiled he could not tell the difference between right and wrong.



#### Militiamen occupy wildlife refuge as dispute flares

This armed occupation, as part of an decades-old conflict between ranchers and the federal government.



#### North Korea claims first successful H-bomb test

The news set off alarm bells in Japan and South Korea.



#### 'Trumponomics' could cause a recession: Economists

A new report from Politico has experts exploring the Donald's fiscal plan.



#### Legendary rock musician David Bowie dies at age 69

A light has gone out in the world.



#### Wrong contestant crowned Miss Universe by host

Yikes, this is real. This is so very hard to watch.

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**Doorbuster \$15-18.75.**  
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**FASHION SNEAKERS**  
**Doorbuster 41.40-47.40.**  
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**STYLE & CO. HANDBAGS**  
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**29.99 AFTER \$10 REBATE\***  
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**Doorbuster 22.99-34.99.**  
Reg. 39.99-57.49, after 2pm: 29.99-37.99. Food processors, blenders & more. ★ WebID 786202.

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**SELECT HOT BEVERAGE MAKERS**  
**Doorbuster 22.99-76.49.** Reg. 39.99-1,289.99, after 2pm: 29.99-899.99. For example: ★ WebID 630863.

**DOORBUSTER**  
**59.99**  
**5-PC. SET**  
Reg. \$200, after 2pm: 99.99. **Only at Macy's.** Tag Springfield spinner luggage. ★ WebID 1611059.

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**\$20 OFF**

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PURCHASE OF  
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